

CLAIM

[1] An address notification device comprising:

a link information list storage part for storing link information list
5 composed of link information including an own address, an address of a
communicating party, and process information about processing of
communication information to be communicated between said own address
and said communicating party address;

link information select part for selecting link information to be
10 changed;

a change information registration part for adding said link information
selected by said link information select part with change information
representing the content of the change;

a link change information sending part for sending link change
15 information representing a change of said link information to a destination
indicated by said communicating party address contained in said link
information added with said change information; and

a link information change part for changing said link information on
the basis of said change information added thereto in response to response
20 information sent from said communicating party in response to the sending
thereto of said link change information.

[2] The address notification device of claim 1, wherein:

said link information change part is configured to change said link
information on the basis of communicating party's link change information
25 received from an address notification device of the communicating party;

an response information sending part is provided for sending response
information to the address notification device of said communicating party in

response to said communicating party's link change information when said link information is changed by said link information change part on the basis of said communicating party's link change information.

[3] The address notification device of claim 1, wherein:

5 a link information registration part is provided for generating new link information having entered therein said change information and for entering said generated link information in said link information list.

[4] The address notification device of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein:

link information that is selected by said link information select part
10 includes link information to be deleted from said link information list;

said change information registration part is configured so that when link information deleted from said link information list is selected by said link information select part, the change information to be entered indicates that said link information has been deleted from said link information list; and

15 said link information change part is configured to delete the link information selected by said link information select part from said link information list.

[5] The address notification device of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein:

said link change information sending part is configured to add, at the
20 time of sending said link change information, said communication information with signature information certifying that the communication information containing said link change information is free from tampering.

[6] The address notification device of claim 4, wherein:

said link change information sending part is configured to add, at the
25 time of sending said link change information, said communication information with signature information certifying that the communication information containing said link change information is free from tampering.

[7] The address notification device of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein:

an own information list storage part is provided for storing own information containing pieces of user identification information each associated with one of the own addresses in said link information list and a profile information list including key information that provides security for communication by said address notification device in correspondence to said each piece of user identification information.

[8] An address notification method by said address notification device of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(a) sending said link change information indicating a change of said link information to a destination that is the communicating party indicated by the communicating party address contained in said link information with said change information entered therein; and

(b) changing said link information with said change information entered therein on the basis of said change information in response to response information sent from said address notification device of said communicating party in response to the sending thereto of said link change information.

[9] The address notification method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

changing said link information on the basis of the link change information of the communicating party received from said address notification device of said communicating party; and

sending response information to said address notification device of said communicating party in response to said link change information of said communicating party when said link information is changed on the basis of the link change information of said communicating party.

[10] The address notification method of claim 9, further comprising the step of merging the link information, changed on the basis of said link change information, and a different piece of link information in said link information list into one piece of link information if these two pieces of link information are identical with each other.

[11] The address notification method of claim 8, further comprising the step of generating new link information with said change information entered therein and entering said new link information in said link information list.

[12] The address notification method of any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the link information selected for said change includes link information to be deleted from said link information list; and when the link information deleted from said link information list is selected, the change information to be entered indicates that said link information has been deleted from said link information list;

said method further comprising the step of deleting the link information selected for said change from said link information list.

[13] The address notification method of any one of claims 8 to 11, further comprising the step of adding, at the time of sending said link change information, said communication information with signature information certifying that the communication information containing said link change information is free from tampering.

[14] The address notification method of claim 12, further comprising the step of adding, at the time of sending said link change information, said communication information with signature information certifying that the communication information containing said link change information is free from tampering.